

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2148 Session of 2026

INTRODUCED BY HOHENSTEIN, CEPEDA-FREYTIZ, KHAN, MAYES, BURGOS, KINKEAD, PIELLI, HILL-EVANS, WAXMAN, GUENST, SANCHEZ, RIVERA, GUZMAN, FIEDLER, ISAACSON, RABB, HOWARD, K.HARRIS, OTTEN, POWELL, KENYATTA, BELLMON, D. WILLIAMS, SMITH-WADE-EL, PARKER, FRANKEL, BOYD, WEBSTER, DALEY, MALAGARI, SOLOMON, CERRATO, HANBIDGE, MERSKI, KAZEEM, O'MARA AND STEELE, JANUARY 16, 2026

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, JANUARY 20, 2026

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), entitled "An
2 act relating to the public school system, including certain
3 provisions applicable as well to private and parochial
4 schools; amending, revising, consolidating and changing the
5 laws relating thereto," requiring certain school entities to
6 adopt policies and procedures relating to access to school
7 property by individuals or certain enforcement officials; and
8 providing for training, reporting to governing bodies of
9 school entities and for department guidelines.

10 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
11 hereby enacts as follows:

12 Section 1. The act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known
13 as the Public School Code of 1949, is amended by adding an
14 article to read:

15 ARTICLE XIII-F

16 WELCOMING SCHOOLS

17 Section 1301-F. Definitions.

18 The following words and phrases when used in this article
19 shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the

1 context clearly indicates otherwise:

2 "Department." The Department of Education of the
3 Commonwealth.

4 "Enforcement agency." An immigration enforcement agency or a
5 law enforcement agency.

6 "Enforcement official." An official of an enforcement
7 agency.

8 "Immigration enforcement agency." The United States
9 Department of Homeland Security and its subagencies, including,
10 but not limited to:

11 (1) United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement,
12 including Homeland Security Investigations.

13 (2) United States Customs and Border Protection.

14 (3) United States Marshals Service.

15 (4) United States Drug Enforcement Administration.

16 (5) United States Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms
17 and Explosives.

18 (6) Any State or local law enforcement agency acting on
19 behalf of the United States Immigration and Customs
20 Enforcement, or an agent or officer for any Federal, State or
21 local agency attempting to enforce Federal immigration law.

22 (7) Any:

23 (i) individual authorized to conduct enforcement of
24 Federal immigration laws; or

25 (ii) Federal agent charged with enforcement of civil
26 immigration laws.

27 "Law enforcement agency." Any of the following:

28 (1) A police department of a city, borough, incorporated
29 town or township.

30 (2) The Pennsylvania State Police.

1 (3) A district attorney's office.

2 (4) The Office of Attorney General of the Commonwealth.

3 (5) A sheriff or deputy sheriff.

4 "School entity." A school district, intermediate unit, area
5 career and technical school, charter school, regional charter
6 school or cyber charter school.

7 "School personnel." An individual within the control of or
8 acting on behalf of a school district, including, but not
9 limited to, a school district employee, school bus driver of a
10 school-district-owned bus, after-school provider, contractor,
11 consultant, volunteer, vendor, school security officer, school
12 resource officer as defined in section 1301-C or service
13 provider.

14 "School zone." School property owned by, leased by or under
15 the control of a school entity.

16 Section 1302-F. Welcoming schools.

17 Beginning with the 2025-2026 school year and each year
18 thereafter, each school entity shall provide assurance of
19 continued access of the school entity's school zones to each
20 student, parent, guardian and school personnel, regardless of
21 immigration status.

22 Section 1303-F. Resolution.

23 (a) Policies and procedures required.--Within 90 days of the
24 effective date of this subsection, each school entity shall
25 develop policies and procedures for creating and promoting an
26 inclusive learning environment in accordance with section 1304-
27 F.

28 (b) Resolution required.--Each board of directors or
29 governing body of a school entity shall adopt the policies and
30 procedures by resolution, which must be adopted by majority vote

1 at a public meeting. At least 45 days prior to the public
2 meeting, the board of directors or governing body shall make
3 available for public inspection the resolution proposed for
4 adoption.

5 (c) Publication of resolution.--A school entity shall make
6 the resolution required under subsection (b) available, in each
7 language spoken by a student at the student's home, to all
8 students, parents, guardians and school personnel no less than
9 30 days prior to the public meeting required under subsection
10 (b). A school entity shall publish the resolution in the same
11 manner and as a part of the publication of notice of the public
12 meeting.

13 (d) Review and amendment of policies and procedures.--No
14 later than 30 days before the beginning of each school year, and
15 thereafter each quarter of the school year, a school entity
16 shall review the policies and procedures adopted under this
17 section. If amendment of the policies and procedures is
18 necessary, the school entity shall amend its policies and
19 procedures through the resolution process specified in this
20 section.

21 Section 1304-F. Policy and procedure.

22 (a) Requirements.--Except as provided in subsection (b), a
23 school entity shall adopt policies and procedures for creating
24 and promoting a welcoming and inclusive learning environment in
25 accordance with this article. The policies and procedures shall
26 include the following requirements:

27 (1) A school entity shall designate a superintendent,
28 other chief administrative officer or school personnel to
29 perform the duties and to respond under this article to any
30 request under this article to enter any part of its school

1 zone.

2 (2) A school entity shall designate areas of the school
3 zone that are:

4 (i) public with entry accessible to the public,
5 including lobby and waiting areas;

6 (ii) nonpublic with entry prohibited to the public,
7 including the interior areas of a school building, a
8 school bus or the area designated for arrival or
9 departure of students traveling by school bus; and

10 (iii) areas with adjustable status of public and
11 nonpublic dependent on time and usage of area. A school
12 entity shall develop guidelines for adjustable status.

13 (3) A school entity shall post signage for:

14 (i) designated public or nonpublic areas; and

15 (ii) adjustable areas.

16 (4) If an officer or agent of an immigration enforcement
17 agency requests entry to a school zone, regardless of a
18 presentment of a signed judicial warrant, the designated
19 school personnel shall:

20 (i) Provide the officer or agent with a copy of the
21 welcoming schools resolution.

22 (ii) Request official identification and contact
23 information from the officers or agents and photocopy the
24 identification and information for the school entity's
25 record.

26 (iii) Document statements and grounds for the
27 request made by the officer or agent requesting entry and
28 statements or acts taken by any officer or agent present.

29 (iv) Document the names of any students or school
30 personnel identified by the officer or agent.

1 (v) Provide digital transmittal of all documentation
2 to the school entity solicitor.

3 (5) The designated school personnel shall:

4 (i) request an enforcement official to present to
5 the designated school personnel a signed judicial warrant
6 that properly extends to the school zone where the
7 subject of the warrant is located; and

8 (ii) photocopy the warrant provided to the school
9 entity for its record and for concurrent digital
10 transmittal to the school entity solicitor.

11 (6) The designated school personnel has no authority to
12 consent to entry and the enforcement official or agent's
13 request to enter the school entity's premises is deemed
14 denied in the event that any of the following factors exist:

15 (i) the enforcement official fails to present a
16 signed judicial warrant;

17 (ii) the enforcement official presents a judicial
18 warrant that is not signed;

19 (iii) the enforcement official presents a judicial
20 warrant that is incomplete, contains inaccurate
21 information or is otherwise improper; or

22 (iv) the enforcement official presents an
23 administrative warrant and no exigent circumstances are
24 specifically claimed to exist.

25 (7) A contract or agreement entered into by a school
26 entity with a school bus company or operator after the
27 effective date of this paragraph shall include a provision
28 that prohibits the company, operator or its employees from:

29 (i) assisting or providing personal information
30 related to a student assigned to a bus provided by the

1 school bus company or operator, including the student's
2 name, home address, bus stop or immigration status; or
3 (ii) permitting an enforcement official or agent to
4 enter the bus if at least one factor under paragraph (6)
5 exists.

6 (8) (i) Regardless of whether within a school zone or
7 situate outside the boundaries of a school zone, an
8 individual who is deemed school personnel may not:

9 (A) inquire into the immigration status of a
10 student, a student's family, parent or guardian; or

11 (B) formally or informally provide or discuss
12 information related to the immigration status of a
13 student, a student's parent or guardian, a member of
14 the student's family or an individual who is deemed
15 school personnel.

16 (ii) The board of directors or governing body of a
17 school entity must establish a disciplinary process and
18 procedure for an individual who is deemed school
19 personnel and who violates subparagraph (i).

20 (9) School personnel must refuse an enforcement
21 official's entry to a school zone for the purpose of a
22 wellness check when the designated school personnel, at the
23 personnel's discretion, determines the wellness check
24 requires a lawful warrant.

25 (10) In the event circumstances permit, a request made
26 by an immigration enforcement agency or other enforcement
27 agency for access to a school entity's building, facility,
28 grounds, school zone or school bus must be directed to the
29 school entity's superintendent and school solicitor 24 hours
30 before the requested time of entry for determination of

1 whether to grant the request. The requesting official must:

2 (i) present official credentials;

3 (ii) have the proper signed judicial warrant; and

4 (iii) receive written approval from the

5 superintendent to enter the school entity's building,

6 facility, grounds or school zone.

7 (11) Regarding a student's parent or guardian, or the
8 student when the student is over 18 years of age, the school
9 entity shall:

10 (i) not share student records or other confidential
11 information protected by Federal or State law; and

12 (ii) provide notice of the right to opt out of
13 disclosing directory information such as a home address
14 and place of birth at least twice a year in August and
15 January.

16 (b) Notification.--The school entity shall notify the parent
17 or guardian of any student subject to a request for access or
18 entry to a school entity or school zone by an immigration
19 enforcement agency or an enforcement agency within 48 hours of
20 the request.

21 (c) Review of existing policy.--A school entity that
22 previously adopted a policy satisfying the requirements of
23 subsection (a) shall review and update, if necessary, the
24 existing policy.

25 Section 1305-F. Training.

26 (a) Content of training.--A school entity shall provide
27 school personnel with training that ensures that school
28 personnel understand and are knowledgeable about:

29 (1) the school policies required under this article;

30 (2) determining the scope of a valid judicial warrant,

1 including the distinction between a signed judicial warrant
2 and an administrative warrant;

3 (3) the requirements and effect of a wellness check;

4 (4) when a request for a wellness check exceeds the
5 boundaries of a wellness check; and

6 (5) the procedures to follow and that the required
7 compliance is critical and understood by the school
8 personnel.

9 (b) Annual training.--A school entity shall annually provide
10 training required in this section at least 15 days prior to the
11 beginning of each school year. In the event school policies
12 required in this article are amended by resolution and adopted
13 under section 1303-F, training required in this section shall
14 occur within 15 days of the adoption of a resolution.

15 Section 1306-F. Professional development.

16 (a) Training required.--

17 (1) Beginning with the 2025-2026 school year and each
18 year thereafter, each school entity shall include in the
19 school entity's professional development plan submitted to
20 the department for approval pursuant to section 1205.1 four
21 hours of training required under section 1305-F related to
22 the following:

23 (i) Creating and promoting welcoming schools.

24 (ii) Implementation of the policies of the school
25 entity under this article.

26 (iii) Limitations on enforcement agency ability to
27 disrupt a student's right to an education.

28 (iv) Ensuring the privacy of student records as
29 required by Federal and State law, including the right of
30 a parent, guardian or student who is over the age of 18

1 to opt out of sharing directory information.

2 (2) A school entity may use the materials made available
3 by the department under subsection (b).

4 (b) Information required to be posted.--The department shall
5 compile, develop and post the following on the department's
6 publicly accessible Internet website, which may include
7 materials already publicly available:

8 (1) Recommended guidelines and educational materials for
9 the training required under subsection (a).

10 (2) Recommended resources and age-appropriate education
11 materials on a right to education, the right to access an
12 education free from fear of immigration enforcement and the
13 safeguards on the release of information without consent.

14 (3) Recommended responses to requests for information or
15 access at a school entity or a school zone.

16 (4) Recommended guidelines and education materials for
17 anti-bullying at a school entity or school zone and awareness
18 and prevention of bullying related to immigration status,
19 ethnicity or national origins.

20 (5) Recommended individual and schoolwide supportive
21 services and restorative school climate programming to
22 address any fear and trauma experienced by students and
23 school personnel from actual or potential enforcement action.

24 Section 1307-F. Report.

25 No later than five days after an action by an enforcement
26 agent occurs at a school entity or school zone, the
27 superintendent shall submit a written incident report to the
28 board of directors or governing body of the school entity. The
29 incident report shall contain the following information:

30 (1) The date and location in which the action was

1 requested, whether granted or denied by the designated school
2 personnel of the school entity.

3 (2) The type of action, whether a request for
4 information or a request for entry.

5 (3) The number of individuals, if any, arrested or taken
6 into custody because of granting the request for information
7 or entry to the school zone.

8 (4) The requesting enforcement agency, department and
9 official responsible for the action.

10 (5) Written notes recorded by the designated school
11 personnel of the school entity documenting:

12 (i) requests made by the enforcement official;

13 (ii) action taken by the enforcement official while
14 in the school zone;

15 (iii) the enforcement official's treatment of the
16 subject of the warrant;

17 (iv) the enforcement official's treatment of the
18 student population of the school entity, if any occurred;

19 (v) the enforcement official's treatment of the
20 school personnel; and

21 (vi) whether the designated school personnel or any
22 other individual in the school zone witnessed any act by
23 the enforcement official that appeared to have exceeded
24 the lawful authority of the enforcement official while
25 executing the warrant.

26 (6) A thorough description of the circumstances that
27 purportedly justified the action.

28 (7) A copy of the credentials provided by the
29 enforcement official, including a copy of the official's
30 identification documents and any warrant and subpoena.

1 (8) An overview of individual supportive services and
2 schoolwide restorative school climate programming available
3 and offered to students and personnel.

4 Section 1308-F. Department guidelines.

5 Within 30 days of the effective date of this section, the
6 department shall develop and publish guidelines to assist school
7 entities in the implementation of this article. The department
8 shall review and update the guidelines, as necessary, but no
9 less than annually. The department shall post guidelines issued
10 under this section on the department's publicly accessible
11 Internet website.

12 Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.